

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1187 - SB 1389**

March 10, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Adds failing to provide adequate clothing or food to a child such that the child is unable to attend school if the parent, guardian, or caretaker of the child is receiving temporary assistance benefits or is deemed to have sufficient income or funds, or any combination of income or funds, to adequately clothe and feed the child such that the child may attend school to the definition of abuse for purposes of Department of Children's Services (DCS) investigations and actions relative to child abuse. Requires a welfare agency or other official having charge of a case of a child unable to attend school due to lack of clothing or food to report the case to the DCS if it is reasonably ascertained that the parent, guardian, or caretaker of the child is receiving temporary assistance benefits or is ineligible for such benefits due to failure to meet the appropriate income standards and is reasonably believed to have sufficient income or funds to adequately clothe and feed the child such that the child may attend school based on the information submitted by the parent, guardian, or caretaker of the child while applying for benefits. Requires the immediate filing of a report to the DCS and the commencement of an investigation for child abuse as defined by the bill if a recipient of temporary assistance benefits fails to comply with the school attendance requirement of the personal responsibility plan without good cause.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- The Department of Human Services (DHS) currently administers the state's temporary assistance program, Families First.
- Under current law, local education agencies (LEAs) are required to report to the welfare agency in the district when a child who is required to attend school is unable to do so due to a lack of clothing or food.
- DHS will be required to develop a referral program in cooperation with the DCS and establish policies relative to reporting appropriate cases to DCS.
- According to DHS, additional staff will not be required for the reporting requirements of the bill.
- According to DCS, any increase in investigations of allegations of abuse as defined by the bill can be accommodated with existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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